WSWS Officer and Committee Report
2019 Annual Meeting – Denver, CO

Office or Committee Name: Legislative
Officer or Chairperson Name: Stephen A. Valenti
Date of Preparation (include year): 3/5/2019

Activities during the year: No report was submitted in 2017. Sought advice from prior years chair James Learys report dated July 26, 2016. One of the action items was to develop and maintain a contact list of individuals with each of the western states that can provide updates on key legislative issues. Participate in Science and policy Committee conference calls, Develop a questionnaire to state weed coordinators in support of a new invasive weeds committee to WSWS. Contacted state weed coordinators by phone.

Enter committee or officer activities since the last meeting here.
Attended most Science and Policy Committee Conference Calls. I missed a few due to field activities and other job-related conflicts.

Contacted all state weed coordinators and equivalent in the Canadian Provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan (where the contact information was accurate) in July and asked if there have been legislative or administrative actions regarding noxious/invasive weed lists. Most of the contact information is very dated and frustrating to work with. I was able though various means to update some contact information as I worked through the prior list, but it still needs a lot of work

A letter was written to survey the state weed coordinators asking 6 questions. Please see page 3 regarding the letter I wrote on behalf of the proposed Invasive Weeds Committee to WSWS. The response was underwhelming, but I did receive 2 good responses from Franklin Slade (Wyoming), and Greg Haubrich (Washington). Special thanks goes to Steve Ryder for his effort in sending out the questionnaire drafted by myself at Sandra McDonalds request to his colleagues across the Unites States, fall of 2018.

Additional contact was made by Steve Valenti in Winter of 2019 with each of the state weed coordinators and at a minimum a vmail message was left with contact information. **The purpose was to ask the weed coordinators the questions in the survey for a broader context.**

Answers to questionnaire and calls (summary).

Mission of WSWS Invasive plant Committee – Provide a liason between WSWS and state weed coordinators. Update economic impacts, stay up to date on new weeds added to the noxious/invasive weed lists, partner with other committee outside of WSWS. Updates on the federal weed law. Make a watch list of weeds that haven't been listed as noxious/invasive.

Specific Focus – Varies by state. Knowing the reason why a state makes a weed noxious, might sound the alarm for surrounding states. Economic modelling, ringing the alarm for specific weeds and therefore the amount of research conducted through WSWS.

Main Issues in your state? Turning the legislators head over a weed by the time they react its to late, various weeds, budget cuts, plan of action for invasive and noxious weeds

Participation in the Invasive Weeds Committee - Overwhelming yes but funding is an issue.

Rights of way symposium at WSWS 2019 – Some takers but participation by this group is projected to be light.

Recommendations for Board Action: Provide a liason from WSWS to the Western Weeds Coordinating Committee to find out their key issues directly in the western states and get to know this group, made up of State Weed Coordinators and others. The current president of this organization is Sean Gephardt. We might want to consider funding their president to come to our meeting.

With turn over from committee to committee it is difficult to stay current with this group.

Budget Needs: None

Name of Person Preparing This Report: Stephen A. Valenti

Date: 10/01/18
To: State Weed Coordinators
From: Steve Valenti, Legislative Committee, Western Society Of Weed Science (WSWS)
Re: Board Of Directors Invasive Weed Committee, Questions Posed, Rights Of Way symposium, Contact Information

The board of directors for the Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS) met in August as they do every year. They consented to create an Invasive Plants Committee to the WSWS, members leading the committee are Chad Cummings (Corteva) and Brian Mealor (University Of Wyoming), the size of the committee is undetermined. The board of directors see this committee as being useful to the state weed coordinators and have a few questions to pose to all the state weed coordinators. If each state weed coordinator could respond to the questions in this email that would be great.

1. What should be the mission of the WSWS Invasive Plants Committee?
2. What specific areas should the committee focus on to better address the needs of your state?
3. What are the main issues for you state that the Invasive Plants Committee could assist you with in Addressing?
4. Would you be interested in working on the Invasive Plants Committee?
5. In 2019 WSWS will be holding a Rights of Way symposium in Denver Colorado. What is your level of interest?
6. Have there been any legislative actions or administrative actions affecting the noxious weed lists in your area?

On another issue I am struggling to find an accurate listing of state weed coordinators and their contact information. So what I am asking is if each state weed coordinator could call or email there contact information including cell, office phone, email, and U.S. mailing address that would be great. Some of the information I have is incomplete, and really needs updating. We would like to stay in contact with the state weed coordinators to communicate pertinent information, and stay current on there needs state by state.

I appreciate your effort's, and look forward to further dialogue.

Steve Valenti, Legislative Committee, WSWS, 701-799-9328, stephen.valenti@bayer.com

Results of calls

State	Weed Coordinators	Comments (7/2018)	Comments (3/2019)
New Mexico	Jim Wanstall	Return Call	Left Message
North Dakota	Richard Weisz (new name)	May add Hounds Tongue to noxious weeds list. Leg. meets in 19	Palmer amaranth and Houndstoungue
Oregon	Tim Butler	Left message	Left message
Idaho	Jim Varley (new name)	67 weeds on noxious weeds list. Nothing added.	No additions
Alaska	Dan Coleman	Left message	Budget cuts, invasive noxious weeds added in 2011
Arizona	Brian McGrew	Left Message	Left Message
California	Terrence Lorick	Left Message	Left Message
Colorado	Steve Ryder	May drop some legacy weeds such as bouncing bet from noxious weeds list. May add flowering rush.	Will provide answers to questionnaire.
Hawaii	Becky Azama (new person in this slot I think)	No revisions to noxious weed list. AIS a huge problem,	Left Message
Montana	David Burch	Left message	Left Message
Nebraska	Mitch Coffin	Nothing new to report. Leg. Meets in Jan 19	Japanes and Giant Knotweed added Nox weed list.
South Dakota	Ron Moehring	No answer	NA
Nevada	Sean Gephardt	Proposed weed added to noxious weeds list. Flowering rush, Desert knapweed, Curley leaf pondweed, Buffle grass, Ventenada, Barbed Goatgrass, Jointed goatgrass	Weeds listed in prior conversation were added to the noxious weeds list.
Washington	Greg Haubrich (Wrong Name)	Left message	153 species of concern. Provided written response to survey.
Wyoming	Slade Franklin	23 weed and pest districts, can act	Tried to remove Skeleton Bursage to no avail.

		independently, resolution from the Wyoming board of ag to add 4 weeds to the noxious weeds list, they include: medusa head, Yellow star thistle, Ventanada, Common mullein	Provided written response to survey
Kansas	Scott Marsh (new)	Legislatively, sweeping revisions to the weed law. Updated the regulations to reflect the changes. They did pull the noxious weed list out of legislation and placed in regulatory. Developing advisory committee to make changes, to weed list dated 04'	5 years of work on the weed law in Kansas now statute.
Oklahoma	Meisha Manuechecheri	Left message	Following up with Karen?
Utah	Robert Hougaard	Left message	Left message
Texas	Paul Baumann	Left message	Wrong number
Saskatchewan	Clark Benzil	Left message	Will reply, waiting
Alberta	Chris Neeser	Left message	Will reply, waiting
British Columbia	David Ralph (ret.)	Left message	Retired, didn't know replacement.
Manitoba	Andrew Lewis (new)	Revising the Noxious Weeds Act. 3 tiers Tier one weeds eradication eg. Orange hawkweed, Tier 2 eg. L.spurge, Tier 3 eg. kochia	Did not call

Contact List

State/Province	Weed Coordinator	Phone#
Alaska	Dan Coleman	907-745-8721
Alberta	Chris Neeser	403-362-1331
Arizona	Brian McGrew	602-542-0955
British Columbia	David Ralph (ret.)	Unknown
California	Terrance Lorrick	916-651-0573
Colorado	Steve Ryder	303-869-9034
Hawaii	Becky Azama	808-973-9538
Idaho	Jeremy Varley	208-332-8667
Kansas	Scott Marsh	785-564-6697
Montana	Dave Burch	406-444-3140
Nebraska	Mirch Coffin	402-471-6844
Nevada	Sean Gephardt	775-353-3640
New Mexic0	Jim Wanstall	505-269-7761
North Dakota	Richard Weisz	701-328-2250
Oklahoma	Meisha Manuechecheri	405-744-9588
Oregon	Tim Butler	503-986-4621
Saskatchewan	Clark Brenzil	306-787-4673
South Dakota	Noone in position	605-773-3796
Texas	Unknown	unknown
Utah	Aaron Eager	801-538-7186
Washington	Greg Haubrich	509-249-6973

Wyomming	Slade Franklin	307-777-6585